

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

DANTA STATE.

FOR THE YEAR

1935-36.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

DANTA STATE

For the Year ending 31st March 1936.

CHAPTER 1.

General and Political.

Geographical position.

The Danta State is situated on the North Frontier of Gujarat and on the Southern line of Rajputana, in a local division called "Nani Marwar." It lies between 24° 0′ and 24° 23′ north latitude and between 72° 40′ and 73° 5′ east longitude. Its extreme length from north to south and extreme breadth from east to west are 22 and 20 miles respectively.

Boundary.

2. The state is bounded on the north by the Sirohi State, on the south by the Sudasana Taluka and the Gadhwada Thana (Sabarkantha Agency) on the east and south by the Idar State and on the west by the Palanpur State.

3. The country is picturesque, being almost entirely hilly with thick forest save for the southern and western portions which are somewhat plane and open. The Arvali Ranges throw their outlying arms forming numerous hills and valleys, the highest peak "Ghodi" rising 2,817 ft. above the sea level. The hills are covered over with considerable forest growth and, owing to the abundance of water, form a natural habitat for wild animals, viz., tiger, panther, hyeana, bear, pig, etc. The country is well drained by numerous small streams which flow throughout the rainy season and empty their contents into either of the two important rivers, the "Sabarmati" and the "Saraswati". The former is the bigger of the two and for a considerable length forms the dividing boundary between the Idar and the Danta States. The latter river though smaller, is held very sacred by the Hindus all over the Indian world. It rises from the "Menagar" hill in the extreme north, flows past the famous temple of Shri Koteshwar, then runs right through the very heart of this State and subsequently enters the territories of the Palanpur and the Baroda States at a village called Mokeswar. She is also known as "Kumarka" or the Virgin River for the fact that like other rivers she does not join either the sea or a big river but disappears in the Runn of Cutch.

Physical aspect.

4. The climate is dry and temperate all throughout the year, the maximum and minimum of temperatures recorded being 109° F. and 50° F. respectively. The hot weather in summer is considerably relieved by the cool breezes of the evening and early morning. The rains break out generally at the fag end of June and continue well through July, August and September. The monsoon is at its best in August. The normal annual rainfall is over 40 inches.

Climate and Rainfall.

5. The approximate total area of the State is 347 sq. miles, and the population which is scattered in about 212 villages is 26,172 persons (males 13,801 and females 12,371) according to the census of 1931, as against 23 023 persons (males 12,087 and females 10,936) of the previous census. Thus, during the last decade the population has increased by 13% which is an index of the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the people in general under the present regime. Out of the total population 23,143 are Hindus, 2,727 Mahommedans and 302 professing other religions. The proportion of population to area is 75 per square mile, which is low indeed, but is mainly due to a greater portion of the State being hilly and covered with jungle. The prevailing languages are Gujarati and Marwari, while the Bhil tribes have a dialect of their own which is a mixture of local Gujarati and Marwari. The Court language is Gujarati.

Area, Population and Language

6. The statistical figures given in the report relate to the year ending 31st March, excepting those relating to the Revenue Department which follows the old and convenient practice of reckoning its year from November to October corresponding to the Hindu Dewali year.

Statistics.

The State pays an annual amount of Rs. 2,278-0-1 as Ghas Dana to the Baroda State through the British Government.

7. The Ruling Prince of Danta is the head of the Parmar clan of Rajputs of the Fire-Race, being a descendant in direct line from Emperor Vikramaditya, the epoch-making monarch

†Early History.

†List of reference Books mainly consulted in outlining the Historical Outline of Danta State.

1. "Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government" No. XII, New Series.

in the ancient history of India. The parmars, who have nearly always remained in or near the country of Malwa round Ujjain, are said to have at one time held the whole or at least a major portion of Rajputana, which fact gave rise to a popular saying "पृथ्वी परमारां तणी" meaning thereby that the earth belongs to the Parmars. Raja Dharni Varah, one of the descendants of Vikram, who ruled in Rajputana, divided his kingdom amongst his nine brothers, himself keeping only the province of Sind. This division is even to the present day referred to in Rajputana, as "नवकोटी मारवाड". The descendants of Dharni Varah ruled over Sind in peace for more than three centuries, until the persistent and pressing invasions of Mahommedans on that province forced them to retire elsewhere. Raja Shri Jasrajji, the then Ruler of Sind, came to Mount Arasur, conquered the surrounding country and laid the foundation of the present State of Danta in 1068 A. D.

The successors of Raja Shri Jasrajji considerably extended and consolidated their domain, so much so that at one time

2. "Bombay Gazetteer" of Gujarat.

3. "Rasmala or Hindoo Annals of Gujarat" written by Mr. Alexander Kinloch Forbes, edited by Prof. H. G. Rawlinson, I. E. S., with historical notes, appendices, and memoir of the author, and published in two volumes by the Oxford University Press in 1921.

4. "Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan or the Central and Western States of India" written by Lieut. Col. James Tod, late Political Agent to the Western Rajputana States, edited with an introduction and notes by William Crooke, C. I. E., I. C. S., and published in 3 volumes by the Oxford University Press in 1920.

5. "Mahi Kantha Directory" compiled by Khan Bahadur Framroz Sorabji Master, B. A., late Deputy Political Agent, Kathiawar, and published in 1922.

6. "The Census Report of Marwar" for 1891.

7. "Memoranda on the Indian States" published by the Government of India, in 1934.

the State included the Santpur Tehsil upto Rohira of Sirohi, a tract in Mewar as far as the present Kotra cantonment, a portion of Idar upto Khedbrahma, eastern portion of Palanpur, Kheralu Mahal of Baroda, Gadhwada District and Sudasana estate. Of these the Jagir of Sudasana was given by the Maharana Shri Gaj Singhji to his younger brother Jaswant Sinhji for maintenance in 1682 A. D., while the Gadhwada District was given in Jagir to Gadhia Koli Chiefs at varying periods for their services to the State. The Kheralu Mahal now included in the Baroda State was mortgaged to the Suba of Gujarat by Maharana Jethmalji in 1650 A. D. for financing the operations against Rao Jagannath of Idar which resulted in the latter's explusion from Idar to Polo (now Vijaynagar in the Sabar Kantha Agency). The long protracted wars between the Roas of Idar and the Rulers of Danta during the 16th and 17th centuries had brought much ruination to the Danta State and had resulted in the dismemberment of its outlying districts.

During the time of Emperor Akbar, one of his sons Prince Salim having quarrelled with him had fled from Delhi. He tried to seek shelter in various States of Rajputana, but for fear of incurring the wrath of the Emperor, none dared to shelter him. At last the Prince sought refuge with Rana Shri Askaranji of Danta (then known as Tarsangmo) who readily gave him shelter as befitting a true Kshatriya. After some few years the Prince went to Kathiawar, but was seized by Rao Bharmalji of Cutch and handed over to the Emperor. The Emperor gave the district of Morbi to Rao Bharmalji for this service. However, when the Emperor and his son had been reconciled and the former acquainted with the gallant conduct of the Rana Shri Askaranji of Danta towards his son, the Emperor was so much pleased with the fact that as a mark of approbation he soon after sent a

dress of honour and granted the title of "MAHARANA" to Rana Shri Askaranji and the Prince Salim sent him his Jewelled signet ring.

8. The State had entered into political relations with the British Government in 1812 A. D.

On the outbreak of the Great European War (1914-1918) the State offered to place the entire resources of the State at the disposal of the Government, and contributed a sum of about a lakh of rupees towards the expenses of the prosecution of the war.

The Ruling Families most closely connected with Danta are those of Tehri, Narsinghgarh, Rajgarh, Sant, Kadana and Muli, while the House of Sudasana as stated above is its offshoot. The Ruling Family of Danta is connected by marriage with the houses of Udaipur, Banswara, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Idar, Sirohi and Dhrangadra.

The State and its Ruler.

The present Ruling Prince of Danta, Maharanaji Shri Bhawanisinghji Bahadur was born on Bhadrapad Sud 8th. Samvat year 1956 corresponding to the 13th September 1899 A. D., had his training at the Mayo College, Ajmer, and was for a number of years associated with the administration of the State before he ascended the Gadi on the 10th March 1926. The Ruler is a member of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) in his own right.

The State is entitled to a permanent dynastic salute of 9 guns. The accession to the Gadi is governed by the rule of primogeniture. The State enjoys independent sovereign powers with full civil and criminal jurisdiction with authority to make its own legislation.

10. The Darbar's first marriage took place with the sister of Maharaj Shri Bijai Singhji of Raoti (Jodhpur); and his second with the sister of His Highness the Raja Saheb Bahadur of Sohawal State, a State under Bundelkhand Agency C. I. Both the Maharani Sahebas died in 1923, the latter leaving behind her one Maharaj Kumari Saheba. The present Maharani Shri Champawatji Saheba is a sister of the Thakur Nahar Singhji Saheb of Auwa, a premier noble of Marwar. By her the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur has three Maharaj Kumars and three Maharaj Kumari Sahebas. Of the three sons, the eldest Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithiraj Singhji Bahadur born on the 22nd July 1928, is the heir-apparent; and the younger Maharaj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Saheb and Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghubir Singhji Saheb were born on the 30th May 1933 and on the 4th December 1934 respectively.

Particulars of the Ruler's Family.

Among other members of the family are Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji aged 11 years the nephew, Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji aged 51 the uncle, Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji aged 31 and Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji aged 29 the cousins, of the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur. The last two named have had their training at the Mayo College and are associated with the administration of the State as Naib Dewan and Revenue Commissioner, respectively.

11. The Administration of the State is carried on under the personal guidance and direction of the Darbar, with the assistance of the Dewan. The authority and powers of the Heads of Departments are well defined and each within his own sphere is independent of the other. In important matters, however, the Darbar is always accessible for advice and guidance; and the success and efficiency so far attained in the administration are mainly due to the Darbar's easy

General Administration.

accessibility and conscientious application to the affairs of the State.

12. The State is in direct political relations with the Government of India, through the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, and is attached to the Western Rajputana States Agency, Jodhpur.

Political relations.

The Political relations with the Paramount Power and the neighbouring States remained most friendly and cordial as usual.

Ruler's movement.

13. During the year under report the Darbar visited the following places :—

Mount Abu, Sirohi, Ahmedabad and Palanpur.

Distinguished visitors.

14. Among the distinguished guests who visited Danta during the year were:—

His Highness Maharajah Saheb Bahadur of Bikaner.

His Highness Maharao Saheb Bahadur of Sirohi State.

Her Highness Maharani Saheba of Sirohi State.

His Highness Maharaja Saheb Bahadur of Idar State.

His Highness Maharaja Jam Saheb Bahadur of Nawanager.

Shrimant Maharaja Kumar Saheb (Heir-Apparent) of Bikaner State.

Shrimant Maharaja Kumar Saheb (Heir-Apparent) of Idar State.

The Hon'ble Lt. Colonel Sir George Ogilvie, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.

Lady Ogilvie.

Lt. Colonel H. M. Wightwick, I. A., Resident, Western Rajputana States.

Shriman Thakor Saheb Muli (Kathiawar).

His Holiness Jagat Guru Shri Vijayanandji Sagaracharya Maharaj, Shankaracharya of Dholka Math.

Major P. Gaisford, I. A., Asstt. Secretary to Hon'ble the A. G. G. in Rajputana.

Mrs. Gaisford.

Shriman Raj Kumar Shri Narayan Singhji Saheb, Masuda, Ajmer-Merwara.

Shriman Maharaj Shri Lal Singhji Saheb, Pipalda, Banswara.

Shriman Maharaj Shri Chhattra Singhji Saheb, Ghori-Tejpur, Banswara.

Shriman Maharaj Shri Kishore Singhji Saheb, Daulatpura, Banswara.

Shriman Rana Saheb of Sanala, Marwar.

" Kumar Saheb, Minda, Marwar.

" Sahebzada Saheb Zabardast Khanji, Palanpur.

" Kumar Saheb Sudasna, Sabar Kantha.

" Thakor Saheb, Sanand, Ahmedabad.

" Captain Kanwar Daulat Sen I. A., Kunadi, Kotah.

Mr. Jitendra S. Mehta, B. A. LL. B., Advocate, Dewan, Banswara State.

Seth Durgaprasad S. Laskari, Ahmedabad.

Pandit *Jayadattji, Sahitya-Tirtha,* Naiyayeek Shiromani, Sidhpur.

Important Events.

15. (1) Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The announcement from the Government of India to celebrate Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee of 25 years benign reign over the British Empire was enthusiastically and cordially received by the people of the State and received whole-hearted support

from the Darbar. A Silver Júbilee Committee was formed for the purpose with the following personnel:—

1. Mr. R. B. Divanji, Dewan, President.
2. Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji Saheb, Naib Dewan, Vice-President.
3. Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Saheb, Revenue Commissioner.
4. Mr. P. P. Desai, 1st Class Magistrate.
5. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, Asstt. Revenue Commissioner.

An elaborate programme of celebrations was drawn up and the whole week from 6th to 12th May 1935 was crowded with close events of public rejoicings and festivities.

The Capital town of the State wore a festive appearance, and the State and public buildings and streets were fairly decorated with flags and buntings. The Jubilee day was heralded at Danta Bhavangadh by a Royal Salute of 31 guns, fired at sunrise, followed by parade of the Body Guards on the Gymkhana ground, at which the Maharana Saheb Bahadur took the salute. Divine services and prayers were held in temples and mosques and sweets were distributed to school children. Competitive athletic sports were held for school boys and girls and for the Body Guards. Food was distributed to the poor at noon.

A grand Darbar was held at 6-30 p. m. at the Palace in the Darbar Pavilion. The place was packed to its utmost capacity by leading citizens and people who had flocked from the surrounding villages. The Darbar commenced with enchanting of benedictory mantras by the priests for the long life, hapinesss and prosperity of Their Most Gracious Majesties.

tions of the Princes in the governance of India as a whole nation and her realization of a rightful place in the mightiest comity of nations the world has ever seen—the British Commonwealth of Nations. The address concluded with the expressions of the Darbar's feelings of deep attachment and unflinching loyalty to the persons of Their Majesties and the British Throne and his genuine felicitations and congratulations to Their Majesties upon the completion of the twenty-five years of their glorious and benevolent reign. Three cheers to Their Majesties and the Maharana Saheb Bahadur brought the function to a close.

At night the State buildings, temples, mosques and private buildings were profusely illuminated and there was a grand display of fire-works. The day's celebrations ended with a State banquet at the Palace at which the Royal toast was proposed by the Darbar.

Similar celebrations, in a manner suitable to local conditions, were held in all the five Mahal head-quarters and at other centres, where vernacular translations of the Kharita and the address appreciating the benign rule of His Majesty were delivered.

May 6th and 7th were declared public holidays throughout the State in honour of the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties' reign.

(2) The birthday of His Imperial Majesty was celebrated on the 3rd June 1935. A salute of 31 guns was fired at sun-rise and the day observed as a public holiday throughout the State.

(3) The birthday anniversary of the heir-apparent Shriman Maharaj Kumar Saheb was celebrated on the 5th August 1935 with great rejoicings.

(4) The 87th birthday anniversary of the Darbar was celebrated on the 6th September 1935 with great eclat as usual. A public Darbar was held where leading ryots, elite of the town, officers and Jagirdars had assembled to pay their homage to their beloved ruler. Sweets were distributed to the children and food and clothing to the poor and destitute people.

State Decorations & Medals

Three new Orders of Medals were instituted during the year under report, under the command of the Darbar, with a view to suitably and adequately recognising the services rendered by the State officials, servants and members of the public. These orders are (1) Order of the Rajya Ratna Mandal. (2) Order of the Rajyalankar Mandal and (3) Order of the Gunadarsha Mandal, the medal of the first Order being of gold and of the rest being of silver. The following persons were decorated with the medals at the hands of the Maharana Saheb Bahadur, on the occasion of the birth-day anniversary darbar :—

(1) *Gold Medal* : Order of the Rajya Ratna Mandal :—

1. Mr. Rattanshaw Sorabji Master, retired guardian to the Darbar.
2. Mr. Hemchand Ujamsee Mehta, Revenue and Account Officer.

(2) *Silver Medal* : Order of Rajyalankar Mandal :—

1. Mr. Chunilal Kasturchand Soni, a leading citizen of Navovas.

(3) *Silver Medal* : Order of Gunadarsha Mandal :—

1. Mr. Gulabsingh Badesinghji Parmar, Customs Superintendent.

2. Mr. Takhatsingh Ratansinghji Chavda, Inspector of Police.

(5) On the 11th November, the Armestice day, there was arranged as usual a complete suspension of all business for two minutes commencing from 11 a. m. as a silent tribute to all those who laid their lives during the World War in the cause of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(6) *Death of Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria*:—The telegram from the Resident, W. R. S., Jodhpur, communicating the death of her Late Royal Highness Princess Victoria which occurred on the 3rd December 1935 was received here with great sorrow and messages of condolence were telegraphed from the Darbar to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Resident, Jodhpur. Flags were kept half-masted and a general mourning was observed throughout the State.

(7) The 12th December was observed as a public Holiday being the Coronation Day of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(8) *Demise of His Imperial Majesty King George V*:—The clear-line telegram from the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, Ajmer, communicating the sad demise of His Imperial Majesty, King George the Fifth was received with much sorrow. Condolence telegrams were sent to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, Ajmer, by the Darbar personally and on behalf of the Ruling Family and State subjects, communicating the conjoint expression of heartfelt sorrow and deep sympathy to be conveyed to the members of the Royal Family in their sad bereavement. Flags were flown at half-mast, and seventy minute guns were fired on the 22nd January 1936.

All offices, schools and public institutions were closed for three days as a mark of respect to the memory of the

great departed soul. Prayers were offered in temples and mosques throughout the State and a scene of general mourning pervaded the whole State.

(9) *Proclamation of accession of His Majesty the King Emperor Edward VIII:* On receipt of the official news of the proclamation of His Majesty the King Emperor Edward VIII to the throne the State flags were hoisted at full mast and a grand Darbar was held on the 30th January 1936. The Dewan read out the vernacular translation of the proclamation accompanied by a speech befitting the occasion, and the accession was announced by firing the Royal salute. Songs were recited by school children and prayers were offered for the long and happy life of His Majesty the New King Emperor. Sweets were distributed and the day was observed as a holiday throughout the State.

CHAPTER II.

Land Administration.

Administrative Units.

For administrative convenience the State is divided into five divisions or Mahals, viz, (1) Danta, (2) Mataji, (3) Hadad, (4) Tarsang and (5) Joita; each, except the first, being under the charge of a Mahalkari who is also a Magistrate. The Danta Mahal is under the direct charge of the Revenue Commissioner. One Circle Inspector or Kaltru has been appointed to each of the five Mahals. All are under the supervision of the Revenue Commissioner.

Personnel.

2. Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Saheb, the Revenue Commissoner remained in charge of the Department all through-our the year.

Land Revenue System.

3. The prevailing land assessment system in vogue is the Bhag-batai or share-rental system. It has by long experience been found beneficial to the conjoined interests of the State and the ryots. Its success is mainly due to the constant vigilance and efficient supervision of the Revenue Commissioner and the avoidance of delay directed by him in weighing the crops.

Nature of Tenancy.

4. All the cultivators are tenants-at-will, none of them having any permanent or vested interest in his holding, as he has no right to alienate either by way of mortgage or sale or in any other way. But so much care is taken in maintaining continuity of tenures that cultivators have continued in their

holdings from generation to generation, and transfers of land are very rare.

Nature of Soil.

5. The soil in some part of the Danta and Joita Mahals is alluvial sandy, formed by the acqueous action of the rivers, and that in the other Mahals is clayey loam. The soil is on the whole rich and fertile and is capable of producing good crops.

Agricultural Population.

6. The agricultural population consists chiefly of Dungri Bhills, Garassias, Kolis, Thakardas, Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs. The Bhills and Garassias are very backward and poor agriculturists. They resort to a sort of shifting cultivation and grow only so much as would be sufficient for their wants. These people are yet in a primitive stage of life in their social and economic conditions. Attempts, however, are being made to ameliorate their condition by persuading them to stick to permanent cultivation. The Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs are intelligent and hard-working cultivators and are generally well-off economically. The Revenue Commissioner is always on the look out to adopt better expedients to improve the condition of cultivation and the cultivators.

Agricultural Stock.

7. During the year under report the agricultural stock consisted of 8,505 oxen, 11,925 cows, including calves, 488 he-buffaloes, and 7,710 she-buffaloes including calves, 171

horses, 111 mares, 30 colts and fillies, 505 donkeys, 12,750 sheep and goats, 3,810 ploughs and 210 carts in the State. There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic among the cattle and the supply of fodder was generally sufficient throughout.

Staple Crop

8. The chief kharif or mansoon crops grown are maize, sesamum, castor-oil seeds, coarse millets and cereals. Among the rabi or cold-weather crops are mainly wheat, gram and rapeseed.

Subsidiary Industry.

9. Cattle-breeding and animal husbandry form the chief secondary occupations of the agricultural classes. The existence of vast tracts for grazing and the nominal fees charged by the State for the purpose have considerably encouraged this. The wealth of a cultivator is usually reckoned by the number of cattle he owns.

Season & Outturn.

10. The total rainfall during the year under report amounted to 24 inches. The rainfall was insufficient as the figures show, and was unevenly distributed.

Irrigation of Crops.

11. There are no irrigation tanks constructed or masonry dams put up across the current of the rivers in the State. By the river-side the people usually throw earthern bunds across the current and thus divert water through channels to their fields. Sub-soil water in wells is found

fairly well near the surface at a depth of about 25 to 40 feet below the ground level, and a number of wells with Arath or Persian-wheels for lifting water are working all throughout the State.

Wells.

12. The total number of pucca wells in the State is 583 of which 18 are sunk during the year under report. The State has always followed the policy of encouraging the ryots to sink more wells by helping them in all possible ways, viz:—

(1) by grant of tagavi loans with or without interest re-payable by small annual instalments;

(2) by remission of Vaje (raj-bhag) for a certain number of years;

(3) by paying gratuitously the full expenses of construction.

Tagavi Advances

13. With a view to help the ryots, tagavi advances at a low rate of interest were made to needy cultivators for bonafide productive purposes, viz., for the purchase of seed, cattle, implements, sinking of wells, to the extent of Rs. 2,675 during the year under report.

Revenue Receipts and Expenditure.

14. The total land revenue receipts, including past arrears, amounted to Rs. 69,078 during the year as against Rs. 67,125 of the previous year. The total expenditure of the Revenue Department, during the year under report, amounted to Rs. 6,618.

15. During the year under report, 146 boundary marks or pillars on the boundaries between the villages of this State and those of the Palanpur State, were repaired cojointly by the States concerned. The remaining pillars on the same boundary, it is hoped, would be repaired during the course of the next year.

Repairs to Boundary Marks.

16. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, B. Ag., Assistant Revenue Commissioner, remained in charge of the Boundary Department of the State all throughout the year.

Personnel.

CHAPTER III.

Revenue and Finance.

Income. Income from all sources during the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,92,099 as against Rs. 1,82,431 in the previous year, which with the opening balance of Rs. 4,766 brings the total receipts of the year to Rs. 1,96,865.

Expenditure 2. The total expenditure during the year under report amounted to Rs. 1,92,310 as against Rs. 1,80,793 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,555 at the close of the year.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS.

No.	Description.	1934—35 Rs.	1935—36 Rs.
	Balance	3,128	4,766
1	Land Revenue	67,125	69,078
2	Local Cess	250	267
3	Customs Revenue	51,293	55,152
4	Forest Revenue	13,807	15,641
5	Opium Revenue, Abkari Revenue including Bhang and Ganja	15,545	15,724
6	Stamps and Registration... ...	3,551	3,706
7	Vero	5,006	5,127
8	Salami	119	119
9	Nazarana	2,010	2,125
10	Law and Justice	6,515	6,238
11	Recoveries	7,419	8,271
12	Extraordinary receipts	3,045	2,895
13	Miscellaneous	4,212	4,109
14	House Site	2,534	3,647
	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,85,559	1,96,865

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE.

No.	Description.	1934—35 Rs.	1935—36 Rs.
1	Administration	42,872	43,648
2	Police	16,616	16,848
3	Educational Department... ...	4,648	5,858
4	Medical Department	5,805	5,961
5	P. W. Department	20,545	20,992
6	Palace Expenses	42,542	43,218
7	Raj Kharch...	10,552	10,826
8	Dharmada	4,615	3,248
9	Kamgiri	3,925	4,315
10	Stable, Bagikhana and Motors ...	13,648	13,826
11	Topkhana	1,272	1,308
12	Ghas Dana	2,283	2,283
13	Miscellaneous	4,018	4,263
14	Tagavi	2,115	2,675
15	Pension Gratuity	3,225	3,450
16	Unforeseen Charges	1,112	1,536
17	Body Guards	...	8,025
	TOTAL ...	1,80,793	1,92,310
	Closing Balance ...	4,766	4,555
	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,85,559	1,96,865

CHAPTER IV.

PROTECTION.

(1) Law and Justice.

Legislation.

The State has got some local laws and regulations of its own. The Courts are guided principally by those laws and follow the spirit of British Laws and Procedure both Civil and Criminal.

Courts.

2. For the administration of justice there are in the State the following Courts with varying degrees of jurisdictional powers:—

I. The four Mahalkaris' Courts at Shri Mataji, Hadád, Tarsang and Joita, which are invested with powers to hear suits upto Rs. 500/- and also to exercise the Powers of 2nd Class Magistrate within their respective Mahals.

II. The Court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kinds of civil suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000/-. The Court also exercises the powers of the First Class Magistrate and is presided over by Mr. Prasankumar P. Desai, B. A., LL. B.

III. The Court of the Naib Dewan, which is empowered to hear civil suits of the value of more than Rs. 5,000/- in original side upto Rs. 10,000/-. It also exercises

the powers of the District and Sessions Court and as such has the power to hear appeals against the decisions of the State Munsiff and First Class Magistrate. It is presided over by Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji Saheb.

IV. The Court of the Dewan, which exercises the powers of High Court. It is endowed with full Civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the Court of the District and Sessions Judge. It is presided over by the Dewan Mr. Ramprasad Bapalal Diwanji, B. A.

V, The Hazur Court presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and the final Court of appeal in all civil and criminal matters.

Civil Suits.

3. The number of Civil suits left pending last year was three and fifteen fresh suits were filed during the year under report. Out of the total 18 suits 13 were disposed of leaving a balance of 5 at the end of the year. The total value of fresh suits filed was Rs. 449-9-0.

Criminal Cases.

4. The number of offences both cognizable and non-cognizable reported during the year was 138, which, with the balance of 25 of the last year, totaled 163. Out of these, 131 were disposed of and 32 remained pending at the end of the year. Out of the total number of 241 persons brought to trial, 80 were acquitted or discharged, 74 were convicted, 3 were committed to the Sessions and 84 remained pending trial.

The number of Sessions cases in balance was one and 2 new cases were committed to the Sessions during the year under report. Thus, the total number of cases during the year under report was three. Out of these, all were tried and

decided, leaving no balance at the close of the year. The total number of persons sent up for trial was 4, out of which, 2 were acquitted, one was convicted, and one was discharged without trial on account of death.

Civil Appellate Work

5. There was one Civil appeal before the Hazur Court which was not decided and remained in arrears. All the four Civil appeals lying in balance from the previous year were disposed of and one revision appeal filed in the Court of the Dewan, during the year under review, remained in arrears. The Naib Dewan and District Judge had on board 3 appeals, out of which two were disposed of and one remained pending at the close of the year.

Criminal Appellate Work.

6. There was no criminal appeal this year before the Hazur Court. The Court of the Dewan had one appeal on board, which was decided confirming the decision of the Lower Court. The Naib Dewan and Sessions Judge heard 2 appeals on board out of which one was heard with the result that the decision of the Lower Court was modified, and one remained pending.

The very small number of appeals goes to show that the contending parties found that their complaints and grievances received due and judicious consideration at the hands of the original courts.

Execution of Decrees.

7. There were 7 applications of the last year for execution of decrees of the value of Rs. 264-7-8 all of which remained pending.

Direct system of summons.

8. The system of direct services of summons between this State and the neighbouring States as well as the British Districts is in force and has worked satisfactorily.

9. Extradition arrangements for the direct surrender of offenders, between this State and the neighbouring States of Palanpur, Sirohi, Udaipur, Jodhpur, with the single exception of the Idar State, are in force as usual. The following statements give the details of extradition cases and the number of persons surrendered by and to, this state:—

Extradition.

Surrendered by Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
To British authorities	...	...
To Indian States	1	2
Total ...	1	2

Surrendered to Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
By British authorities	1	1
By Indian States	3	9
Total ...	4	10

10. The Dewan is the the Ex-Officio Registrar. During the year under report documents were presented for registration, of which 14 were duly registered. The total value of the property dealt with was Rs. 2,900 and the fees realized for the registration of these documents amounted to Rs. 67-8-0 as against Rs' 35-8-0 in the last year.

Registration.

(II) Police.

11. For the purposes of administrative convenience and economy in expenditure no separate Military Force is maintained in the State, but the total Police force, which is 150 rank

Police.

and file, has been divided into (i) the foot-police for the maintenance of peace and order and for the detection and investigation of crime and (ii) the mounted police for similar duties and for distant patrols.

Besides this, there is an irregular Force which consists of Body-Guards, seventy in number and they are all unarmed.

The ratios of the Police force to the population and to the area come to 1 to 174·5 heads of population and to 1 to 2·3 square miles of territory respectively. The proportion may look a little high, but the hilly nature of the country, the extended and long frontiers with foreign States all around, the turbulent nature of the hill tribes (Bhill and Garassias) inhabiting on both sides and their mischievous propensities, all these and other considerations necessitate for the State the maintenance of a strong consolidated Police force for proper and effective bandobast.

Personnel.

12. The Department remained throughout in charge of Mr. Hiralal S. Joshi, the Asstt. Superintendent of Police assisted by one Inspector of Police and 5 Sub-Inspectors of Police posted in the different Mahals. The proper training of the police in drill and discipline is looked after by these officers; while for the training of the Body-Guards the State has engaged the services of a war veteran (Mr. Sohan Singh) a discharged non-commissioned officer of the 13th Rajput Infantry, who has seen active life in Mesopotemia and East Africa during the Great War.

Equipment.

13. The Police Force is supplied with full uniform dresses and is armed with 154 breach loading rifles.

Police Working.

14. The following statement shows the working of the police during the year under report :—

Cases reported	61
Accused arrested	65
Accused sent for trial	65
Persons convicted	30
Acquitted or discharged	19
Percentage of conviction	46 p. c.

Property stolen and recovered.

15. The total value of the property stolen and recovered during the year was Rs. 10,146-7-9 and Rs. 7,198-1-9 respectively, which brings the figures of percentage of recoveries to nearly 70 p. c.

Accidents.

16. There were this year 16 deaths from various occurances and other accidents caused by fire, as shown below :—

Suicides	3
Snake bite	0
Drowning	0
Burns	0
Killed by wild beasts	0
Other accidents	8
Fires	5
Total ...	16

Expenditure.

17. The total expenditure of the Police Department this year came to Rs. 16,848 as against Rs. 16,616/- of the last year.

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(III) Jails.

18. There are Lock-ups at Shri Mataji, Hadad, Vijlasan (Tarsang Mahal), Joita and a central Jail at Danta Bhavangadh. The number of persons confined during the year under report was 76-as against 41 in the last year. The sanitary arrangements are very good and the discipline is very well maintained. Separate arrangements are made to keep male and female prisoners apart from each other.

19. The general health of the prisoners was very good throughout the year under report. They do indoor works such as grinding grain, and other manual labour. Continued efforts are made to train them to do the hand-loom work, bamboo work, such as making baskets, mats, etc., and also, some garden works. It is the Darbar's keen desire to train them up and to take such work from them as may enable them to earn their honest livelihood after they are released from the prison.

20 The First Class Magistrate Mr. Prasannkumar P. Desai, B. A., LL. B., works ex-officio as Superintendent of Jails and the Chief Medical Officer Mr. Shivnath Singh M. Rao, M. B. B. S., (Bom.), looks after the health of prisoners.

CHAPTER V.

Production and Distribution.

Sources of Production.

The main source of production are agriculture, cattle-breeding and forests.

Wages, Labour and Prices

2. Bulk of population of the State mainly consists of agriculturists. Only a few who are without the means either of land or capital and are consequently out of employment are available as day-labourers in fields or in the Public Works Department. The following statement gives an idea of the daily wages of skilled artizans and unskilled labour prevailing during the year:—

Unskilled labour	Rs. 0—3—0
Blacksmiths	Rs. 1—0—0
Masons...	Rs. 1—0—0
Carpenters	Rs. 1—0—0

Owing to the general and world-wide trade depression the price of food-stuff during the year under review had declined to some extent. The following comparative statement gives the prices of the staple food-stuffs of the previous and present years:—

Name of food-stuff.	Present year.	Past year.	
	Rs: as. ps.	Rs. as. ps.	
Wheat ...	... 1—6—0	1—8—0	per 40 lbs.
Bajri	... 1—2—0	1—3—0	„
Oats	... 1—1—0	1—2—0	„
Maize... ...	... 0-14—0	1—0—0	„
Mug pulse ...	... 2—4—0	2—8—0	„
Udid pulse ...	... 2—0—0	2-10—0	„
Course-millets	... 0-13—0	0-14—0	„
Gram... ...	... 1—1—0	1—2—0	„

Exports and Imports

3. The chief trade of the State consists in the export of the surplus produce of agriculture, viz., wheat, maize, gram, rape-seed, ghee, etc., and forest products, viz., bamboo, baskets, gums, honey, wax, safet musali, etc. The chief imports are sugar, cloths, salt, cereals, spices and condiments, kerosine, stationery, cutlery, brass and copper wares, etc.

Customs on Exports and Imports.

4. An ad-valorem customs duty is levied on all imports and exports in accordance with the revised schedule of rates passed and put into force from 30th October 1932. The total receipt under head during the year under report amounted to Rs. 55,152 as against Rs. 51,293 in the last year.

Trade conditions.

5. The world-wide trade depression had its repercusion here also in the form of scarcity of money, unsettled prices and a decline in the prices of food products. Moreover, the absence of a railway line running through the State is a constant hindrance to the development of the general resources of the State. Consequently, the means of transport of goods are furnished by camels, asses and bullock-carts only.

6. Practically almost all the important villages in the State have been connected with the Capital by roads freshly laid. The new roads laid out in the year before the last have considerably improved, and a new pucca metalled road from Shri Mataji, an important centre of pilgrimage in the State, to the frontier, joining that town with the railway Station of Abu Road, is being laid out with necessary culverts, bridges, drains, etc. The existing motorable road between Shri Mataji and the Capital town, Danta-Bhavangadh, has during the year under report, been considerably improved and a new alignment of a lesser gradient than in the old one has been made. Here too, where necessary, culverts and drains are being constructed. The total estimated cost of this work comes to Rs. 60,000/- nearly. Besides this, three new bridges-one on the Koteshwar Road, the second on the Kumbharia Road, and the third on the Gubbar Road—have been set up at an aggregate cost of Rs. 15,000/-. In this connection it may be mentioned that a sum of Rs. 1,045-8-0 only has uptil now been allotted to the State from the Road Development Account (representing proceeds of the additional duty of two annas per gallon levied on patrol for road development). But the large sum of Rs. 60,000 mentioned above is being spent in anticipation of the sanctioning of the grant by the Government of India to the State for the construction of a pucca road from the State Capital to Shri Mataji.

Roads.

The people of the State have thus been afforded the facilities of easy communications as far as possible. The total length of the motorable roads in the State is 256 miles, out of which 135 miles are roads serviceable only during the 8 months in the fair weather, while the roads serviceable all throughout the year even during the monsoon are 121 miles.

7. Motor Lorry Services are regularly run by private individuals between Palanpur and Danta-Bhavangadh, Danta-Bhavangadh and Shri Mataji, and Shri Mataji and Koteshwar, for carrying passengers and goods. The State has given a monopoly to Messrs. Merwanji Rustomji & Co. of Mt. Abu, to run a Motor Service between Shri Mataji and Abu Road. The motor service has been regularly working since 1st March 1934.

Motor Service

8. The Public Works Department of the State spent an aggregate sum of Rs. 20,992/- on original works and repairs, during the year under report.

Public Works Department

9. There are great possibilities of developing the forest resources of the State by laying out plantations of valuable timber, such as teak, by extraction of catechu from Khair and by propagation and culture of lac from Khakhra trees. The reorganisation of the Forest Department, so as to make it more efficient and paying, is under the contemplation of the Darbar.

Forest.

The present sources of forest Revenue are fees charged for cutting bamboos and timber, for grazing cattle and for collecting Timbru leaves, Aval bark, gums, honey, wax, etc. The total Forest Revenue for the year under review was Rs. 15,641/- as against Rs. 13,807/- in the previous year.

10. There exist large deposits of marble of a superior grade and type in the vicinity of Shri Mataji. It is, however, at present not worked out for lack of Railway transport facility.

Quarries.

11. A monopoly for the distillation and sale of country liquor for local consumption within the State limits has been granted to a private individual. The distillery is situated at the Capital town, from which country-liquor is supplied to 22 shops for retail vend. Opium and other narcotic drugs for local consumption were imported from Government Depots at Indore and Ahmedabad. The total gross revenue under the combined head of Excise and Abkari amounted to Rs. 15,724/- during the year under report as against Rs. 15,545/- in the previous year.

Excise & Abkari.

CHAPTER VI.

Education.

General. The control of the Educational Department rests exclusively with the State. Education both primary and secondary is imparted free throughout the State. The Department was under the supervision of Mr. P. P. Desai, B. A., LL. B., throughout the year.

Schools for Boys. 2. The State maintains one Anglo-Vernacular School at the Capital town Danta-Bhavangadh and 4 vernacular primary schools in the mofussil at Navovas, Motasada, Shri Mataji and Hadad. These schools are working satisfactorily and the attendance is regular. The Anglo-Vernacular School at the Capital imparts instruction in Gujarati upto VII Standard and in English upto III Standard. A new spacious school building is under construction at the Capital and is expected to be completed by the end of 1936.

Girls' School. 3. The Girls' School was opened in the previous year with a fairly good number of students. The number of girls receiving education having now increased, a separate school building has been provided for them. The increase in number shows that the parents are taking keen interest in the education of their children, boys and girls alike, which is a very good sign of advancement and material progress.

4. Moral and physical training of pupils is carefully attended to. They are paraded everyday in their respective classes to say the morning prayers, and two periods per week are devoted to giving them moral instructions. There is a spacious play-ground on the outskirt of the Capital, where they are daily taken out to play cricket, football and other out-door games.

Moral & Physical Training.

5. The Head-master of the Anglo-Vernacular School at Danta is a trained hand and he has been able to introduce scouting in the Institution with considerable success. A batch of 40 boy-scouts has been well trained, disciplined and drilled. The Darbar has been pleased to equip them with uniform dresses, etc., from the State funds. A batch of 25 senior scouts was taken out on an excursion on foot to Shri Mataji during the Navratri days and had a delightful outing for nearly a week.

Boy-Scout Movement.

6. During the year under report scholarships were granted for studies outside the State, as shown below:—

Scholarships.

4 for upper secondary education.

1 for Medical studies.

3 for Sanskrit and Vedic studies.

7. On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Shri Maharaj Kumar Saheb a special programme of athletic sports for boys and girls of the school was arranged. Prizes were distributed by the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur to the winners and to those who had come out successful in the annual examinations in the presence of a large gathering of officers and citizens.

Prize Distribution

Attendance.

8. The total number of pupils on rolls during the year was 312 and the average daily attendance was 308 which clearly shows the enhanced interest of the State and parents in the education of children.

Expenditure.

9. Total expenditure on education during the year under report, including the grant of scholarships, amounted to Rs. 5,858 as against Rs. 4,648 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VII.

Medical Relief and Vital Statistics.

Medical Institution

There is one Hospital at Danta-Bhavangadh and one Dispensary at Shri Ambaji. Both these institutions are entirely charitable and are equipped and maintained by the State.

Personnel

2. During the year under report the Department remained in charge of Dr. Shivnath Singh, M. Rao, M. B. B. S. (BOM.), Chief Medical Officer, Danta State. The ever increasing pressure of work at the Hospital has necessitated the creation of a new post of a Sub-Assitant Surgeon with effect from 15th February 1936. Mr. A. S. Mendge, L. M. P., is the present incumbent of the post.

Medical Relief.

3. At both the centres in and out patients were treated free. Urgent cases were attended to in the districts also without charging any fees. The total number of out-door patients was 14,645. The total number of indoor patients was 40. The average daily attendance of old and new cases was 40%.

Surgical Operations.

4. More Surgical work was done this year in major operations. The total number of minor operations was 224 and that of major operations was 12.

Diseases

5. Principal diseases treated during the year were mostly of the digestive system, respiratory system, fevers, eye, ear, nose, throat, intestinal parasites, venereal diseases, local and general injuries, wounds and septic ulcers.

Epidemic.

6. There was no epidemic of small-pox, cholera, meningitis or plague. Due to free distribution of quinine there was less number of cases of malaria this year in comparison with the last year.

Anti-Rabid Treatment.

7. No cases of hydro-phobia occurred. Five cases of dog-bite occurred and were successfully treated. Snake-bite cases were promptly attended to and were cured.

Few cases of guinea-worms were recorded and wells were disinfected as a preventive measure.

Vaccination

8. 429 Cases were vaccinated during this year with the lymph imported from the Belgaum Vaccine Institution.

General Health & Sanitation.

9. The general health of public was good throughout the year.

Expenditure.

10. The total expenditure incurred during the year for medical relief including vaccination and sanitary arrangements amounted to Rs. 5,961 as against Rs. 5,805 in the previous year.

Vital Statistics.

11. The total number of births and deaths reported was 141 and 103 respectively.

CHAPTER VIII.

Miscellaneous.

Places of Interest & Fairs held

There are various old places of interest in the State from the religious point of view as well as from the point of view, both of architecture and natural scenery. The chief celebrated places among them are noted below;—

Shree Ambaji:—This is a very ancient and sacred place where there is a holy shrine of Shri Ambaji at Mataji. The temple is dedicated to the Divine Mother and is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India. Fairs are held every full-moon day and during Navratri days.

Koteshwar:—This is a temple of God Shiva, situated on the hill slopes and at the source of the holy river Sarswati and is at a distance of 4 miles from Mataji. All pilgrims visiting Mataji go to this sacred place also.

Kumbharia:—These are a collection of five Jain old temples built by Vimalshah in the 11th century. They are built of local marble and contain fine specimens of exquisite carving. They are two miles away from Mataji. Many Jains and other pilgrims come here to pay homage to the wonderful marble images.

Mokheshwar:—This is a cave temple of God Shiva on the bank of the river Saraswati. A fair is annually held on the 11th day of the bright half of Bhadrapad.

Maneknath:—This is a cave temple on Maneknath hill in the Tarsang Mahal so called after a very famous Hindu Saint of the 15th century. A fair is held annually on the Gokul Ashthami day.

Sitla Mata:—This is a temple near Pethapur. A fair is held at the Sitla Mata on the Sitla Saptami day in the month of Shravan every year.

Chamundaji:—This is a temple near Vasi. A fair is held there in the month of Ashadh every year.

Post and Telegraph.

2. The State is served by the Indian Post and Telegraph Department. There is a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Danta-Bhavangadh and a Branch Post Office at Mataji.

Telephone.

3. The State maintains a Telephone system of its own, connecting important Thanas of the State to the Capital. It has greatly facilitated the administrative machinery and especially the work of the Police Department in speedily checking and detecting crimes.

Flour Mills.

4. There are two Flour Mills, one at Mataji and the other at the Capital, one belonging to a private enterpriser and the other to the State. Both are working satisfactorily.

Conclusion.

5. The foregoing account of administration is on the whole gratifying, and this is mainly due to the sympathetic guidance, able direction, great care and personal supervision of the Darbar to whom my most greateful and profound thanks are due. My warm appreciation and thanks are also due to the officers of the State for their hearty co-operation.

DANTA-BHAVANGADH.
Dated 17-6-1936.

R. B. Divanji.
Dewan, Danta State.